



THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF WORLD WAR 1 AERO HISTORIANS

General Meeting: Saturday 21 February 2009

Venue: Victoria Barracks. Chairman: M Lax

Commenced: 1403

- 1) **Apologies:** Nil
- 2) **Attendance:** 22 plus 2 guests
- 3) **Minutes:** Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 15 November 2008 to be confirmed.
Accepted (m) M Crisp **(s)** D White

4) Business arising from the Minutes/Discussion Points:

- (a) Meeting program: Feb: Speakers and a DVD (*WWI in Colour – Part 3*)
May: Four 15 minute guest speakers – to be arranged
Aug: Modelling and art show
Nov: AGM, Guest Speaker – probably Rod Luke from the Temora Air Museum; to be arranged by M Lax;
- (b) Website upgrade and database developments

New member A Smith gave a short presentation on the proposed major upgrade to the Society website. The concept was **agreed** to in principle by the meeting, and a more detailed proposal will be **considered** by the Executive Committee before the May meeting, when a report will be given to members.

M Lax and D Perkins then provided information on a comprehensive data base originated by the late Barry Videon which has information on all Australians who served in aviation-related services during The Great War. Subject to the Videon family's consent, it is hoped to put the data base on the new Society website, so as to preserve the memory of the men concerned and to make the information available for researchers.

- (c) Membership renewals – red spot program

There are about 30 members who have not yet renewed their subscription and have therefore been reminded of their non-financial status by a red spot on the address label of the latest *Newsletter*.

(d) Norfolk Island plaque

The plaque was received on Norfolk Island and advice from the past President of the RSL Sub-Branch, Mr P Finch OAM, is that it will be installed on a specially commissioned bench made of Norfolk pine outside the RSL in Burnt Pine.

(e) Concord picnic day

The President extended his thanks to Greg Mullens for organising the event.

(f) Donation of Betteridge photograph collection

The President told the Society how the son of Pte Charles Betteridge from No 1 Sqn AFC had donated a large collection of contemporary photographs from Palestine to the Society. These are now available for study by members.

(g) Recovery of ASWWIAH negatives from the AWM

The President will take up the matter on site in Canberra.

(h) President's Literary Award

The 2008 Award will be presented to John Grech for *Gone But Not Forgotten*.

5) Correspondence: Only newsletters from Australian and NZ Aviation Historical Societies and junk mail

6) Office Bearer Reports:

a) President: Covered in other points

b) V.P. Administration: See attached. The Committee will have to **decide** if the Society's video tapes should be retained now that the contents have been transferred to DVD.

c) V.P. Special Projects: See attached

d) Treasurer/Membership Secretary: There are now 84 financial members and our bank balance stands at \$5295.61.

e) Newsletter Editor: Newsletter costs are under control. A member reported that a large file of Society correspondence from the early 1960s was bought in a second hand shop in Victoria. It could be purchased back if thought worthwhile.

f) Librarian: Three new titles have been added to the library, plus the usual periodicals.

g) Liaison Co-Ordinator: A formal Vote of Thanks was passed by the meeting for M Crisp for his efforts with respect to the Norfolk Island Plaque.

A visit to RAAF Richmond in May is being planned.

h) Journal Editor: Nil

i) Secretary: Nil

Acceptance of Reports: The above reports were accepted.

(m) J Weingarth **(s)** H Rowlands

7) General Business:

A Certificate of Merit was presented to M Lax by former President J Baker for efforts in organizing the Canberra meeting in May 2008.

J Weingarth outlined his efforts in arranging for the production and installation of a bronze plaque at Leighterton in Gloucestershire to commemorate the departure of the AFC in May 1919. The plaque will be taken to England on the P & O ship *Arcadia*. A formal Vote of Thanks to J Weingarth was **passed** by the meeting.

Members who have visited the War Memorial and viewed the *Over the Front* display were unanimous in praising it and recommending that all members should try to see it.

Members were requested to provide any changes to their Membership Directory information to D Perkins.

D White raised a point of concern with respect to raffle tickets, and the disproportionate chances of a win by a member who has bought tickets with their annual subscription ('subscriber') as opposed to a member who purchases tickets at a meeting ('attendee'). It was proposed that in future one prize be reserved for a subscriber and the other for an attendee. The concept was raised as a motion by M Lax and seconded by M Crisp before being **carried** by a show of hands. Members will be advised in the next *Newsletter*.

8) Raffle Draw: *The Airship VC* was won by M Mirkovic, while *Germany's First Air Force* was won by D Ellison.

9) Next Meeting: The next General Meeting will be held at Victoria Barracks on Saturday 16 May 2009 commencing at 1330.

10) Close: 1451.

After the meeting members viewed a DVD from the *World War I in Colour* series.

President

Secretary